

Serial No. 09/846,044, filed 5/1/01

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-7, 11-12, 14-16 and 21-28 are presently pending in the application. Claims 3, 4, 8-10 and 20 have been cancelled by this Amendment, and claims 7, 11, 23 and 27 have been amended to independent form.

Claim 12 has been amended to address the §112 rejection raised by the Examiner. Unamended claim 12 was definite since claim 14 recited an "end portion" referring to the previously recited "end portion" as opposed to the "opposite end portion." Nonetheless, claim 12 has been amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4, which overcomes the rejection to claim 1 under §102(b) over Cuyl. Noticeably, claim 4 is not rejected.

Claim 11 has been amended to independent form. The Examiner has argued that the rod of claim 11 is satisfied by the main shaft 21, which is manually driven by a door handle. The Applicant disagrees. Claim 11 recites that the rod "supports" opposing portions of the belt. The definition of support is to bear weight or hold in position. Claim 11 further recites that the rod is supported "to maintain a distance between said opposing portions." This additional limitation indicates that the meaning of the term support is the latter definition, that is, hold in position. As a result, claim 11 requires that the rod hold in position opposing portions of the belt. This is not satisfied by Cuyl.

The main shaft 21, best shown in Figure 4 of Cuyl, is connected to the pulley or drum 9 and is remote from the belt. It is the pulley or drum 9 that supports the belt. The Examiner has argued that the opposing portions of the belt in Cuyl are the opposing or lateral faces. However, the lateral faces are not held in position by the main shaft 21. Rather, apertures in the housing are what locate the lateral faces of the belt, as discussed

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in column 3, lines 29-32. Accordingly, Cuyt does not anticipate claim 11.

Claims 1, 3-7, 21-23 and 25-28 were rejected under §103 over Lecompagnon in view of Colell. The Examiner's whole premise to modify Lecompagnon with Colell is to prevent slipping between a belt and pulley. However, Lecompagnon, which is the base reference, discloses a chain 22 and a sprocket 36 in column 3 respectively at lines 42 and 54. The Figures also illustrate this chain and sprocket arrangement. Accordingly, slipping between the drive pulley and belt cannot be the motivation to support a modification of the base reference since there is already no slipping between the chain and sprocket. Said another way, since there is no problem with slipping in the base reference, slipping cannot be a proper motivation for modifying the base reference. The combination is improper and the rejection must be withdrawn.

For the above reason, independent claims 7 and 23 are allowable.

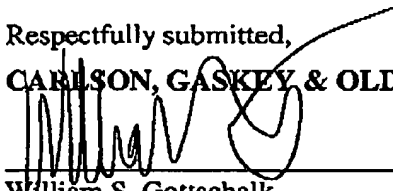
Independent claim 27 is also allowable since Lecompagnon does not disclose the claimed spaced apart flanges. The absence of the sprocket having spaced apart flanges is clearly shown in Figure 1 of Lecompagnon. There would be no motivation to modify Lecompagnon because it uses a sprocket and chain arrangement which laterally locates the belt on the sprocket. Further, there is no benefit for spaced apart flanges in Lecompagnon.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 20. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 12 under §102(b) over Lecompagnon has been overcome. Regarding claim 20, there is no motivation to modify Lecompagnon to provide the protrusion of Colell, for the reasons stated with respect to claims 23 and 27 above.

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It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes that additional fees in the amount of \$600.00 are required for three additional independent claims. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds in the amount of \$600.00, as well as for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS



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